

3. (Reiterated) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising vector nucleic acid sequences.

4. (Reiterated) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising nucleic acid sequences encoding a non-COCH5B2 polypeptide.

5. (Reiterated) A host cell which contains the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

6. (Reiterated) The host cell of claim 5 which is a mammalian host cell.

7. (Reiterated) A non-human mammalian host cell containing the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

18. (Reiterated) A kit comprising a compound which selectively hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and instructions for use.

29. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 1000 nucleotides of a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:6 or complements thereof.

30. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least about 99% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7.

31. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7, wherein the fragment comprises at least 75 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7.

32. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7.

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C2 concid . 33. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:7.

34. (Cancel) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which has at least 90% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, or a complement thereof, and which encodes a polypeptide having at least one COCH5B2 activity.--